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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by Rev. John Edgerton, Old South Church, Boston, MA.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Along with the heartbroken of Boston, let us pray.

O God, remember this assembly, which you acquired long ago. Have regard for Your covenant, for the dark places of the land are full of the haunts of violence. Your foes have roared; they have roared within Your holy place; they set up their emblems there. They said to themselves: We will utterly subdue them. But it is God who executes justice, putting down one and lifting up another. For in the hand of the Lord, there is a cup with foaming wine, well mixed. God will pour a draught from it, and the wicked of the Earth shall drain it to the dregs.

Lord, You were favorable to Your land. Restore us again, O God of our salvation. Will You not revive us again, so that Your people may rejoice in You? Let me hear what the Lord will speak. Peace. God speaks peace to the people, to the faithful, to those who turn to the Lord in their hearts. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet. Righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. It is You who have said so, O God.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 25, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COWAN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 10:30 this morning. The majority will control the first half, the Republicans the final half. At 10:30 the Senate will recess for an hour to allow for a Senators-only briefing. When the Senate reconvenes, we will resume consideration of the Marketplace Fairness Act. Yesterday I filed cloture on this legislation. As a result the filing deadline for all first-degree amendments is 1 p.m. today. Unless an agreement is reached, Senators should expect a cloture vote on Friday morning.

That was a wonderful prayer. I appreciated it very much.

I would now yield to my friend, the senior Senator from Massachusetts.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Massachusetts.

WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, thank you.

Every April a large blue-and-gold banner flies above the entryway at Old South Church, with words from Isaiah: "May you run and not grow weary, walk and not faint." Old South Church sits on the finish line for the Boston Marathon, a distinguished and historical spot that has earned its name, "Church of the Finish Line."

Today I welcome Rev. John Edgerton of Old South Church, the Church of the Finish Line, and thank him for coming here to share his faith, resilience, and fortitude.

Less than 2 weeks ago, on the Sunday before the marathon, Old South Church welcomed athletes, friends, families, supporters, and marathon volunteers into the church for the annual premarathon "Blessing of the Athletes."

On Marathon Monday, just after 12 p.m., the bells of Old South Church rang in the men's winner of the Boston Marathon, Lelisa Desisa Benti, as he crossed the finish line.

Later that day two blasts from hidden bombs rocked the crowded final stretch on the Boston Marathon. One explosion occurred mere feet from the front of the church. In an instant, Old South Church, the marathon church, the Church of the Finish Line, joined the rest of Boston in helping, comforting, and praying.

The Old South Church was first gathered in 1669 by a group of colonists who wanted to create a more inclusive and welcoming congregation. Since then, it has played an integral role in Boston's history. Meetings that led to the Boston Tea Party were held at the church, and in the 19th century church members were active in the abolitionist movement.

Although Old South Church was closed for more than a week following the explosion, its ministry remained

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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